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 United States of America

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	Criminal Case No. 08CR1367-JLS
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	DATE: June 20, 2008
	)	TIME: 1:30 p.m.
v.	)	Before Honorable Janis L. Sammartino
	)	
VICTOR HUGO RENDON-LARA,	)	UNITED STATES' STATEMENT OF
	)	FACTS AND MEMORANDUM OF
Defendant(s).	)	POINTS AND AUTHORITIES
	)	

**I**

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

The Defendant, Victor Hugo Rendon-Lara (hereinafter "Defendant"), was charged by a grand jury on April 30, 2008 with violating 18 U.S.C. § 545, importation of merchandise subject to seizure. Defendant was arraigned on the Indictment on May 1, 2008, and entered a plea of not guilty.

**II**

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Defendant was apprehended on the evening of April 3, 2008, by United States Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") Officers at the San Ysidro, California Port of Entry. There, Defendant

1 entered the vehicle inspection lanes as the driver, registered owner, and sole occupant of a 1997  
2 Chevrolet Suburban ("the vehicle").

3 At primary inspection, a CBP Officer asked Defendant what he was bringing from Mexico.  
4 Defendant responded that he was bringing back soda and chips. The CBP Officer inspected the  
5 rear of the vehicle and discovered two large cylindrical carton containers without labels. Upon  
6 being asked what these items were, Defendant replied that the containers held grease used to clean  
7 semi trucks and that he had purchased the items in the U.S. The CBP Officer discovered that the  
8 containers were extremely heavy for the size of the containers. Upon probing the containers, the  
9 CBP Officer suspected the containers contained iodine. He then escorted Defendant to the security  
10 office and the vehicle was turned over to the vehicle secondary lot for further inspection.

11 There, upon further inspection of the vehicle, the two containers containing suspected  
12 iodine were removed from the vehicle. Officials from a contract environmental services company  
13 determined that the containers did indeed contain iodine. The containers had a combined weight  
14 of approximately 102.85 kilograms.

### 15 III

#### 16 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### 17 A. DISCOVERY REQUESTS AND MOTION TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE

##### 18 1. The Government Has or Will Disclose Information Subject To Disclosure 19 Under Rule 16(a)(1)(A) and (B) Of The Federal Rules Of Criminal Procedure

20 The government has disclosed, or will disclose well in advance of trial, any statements  
21 subject to discovery under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(A) (substance of Defendant's oral statements  
22 *in response to government interrogation*) and 16(a)(1)(B) (Defendant's relevant written or  
23 recorded statements, written records containing substance of Defendant's oral statements *in*  
24 *response to government interrogation*, and Defendant's grand jury testimony).

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1                   a.       The Government Will Comply With Rule 16(a)(1)(D)

2           Defendant has already been provided with his or her own “rap” sheet and the government  
3 will produce any additional information it uncovers regarding Defendant’s criminal record. Any  
4 subsequent or prior similar acts of Defendant that the government intends to introduce under Rule  
5 404(b) of the Federal Rules of Evidence will be provided, along with any accompanying reports,  
6 at a reasonable time in advance of trial.

7                   b.       The Government Will Comply With Rule 16(a)(1)(E)

8           The government will permit Defendant to inspect and copy or photograph all books, papers,  
9 documents, data, photographs, tangible objects, buildings or places, or portions thereof, that are  
10 material to the preparation of Defendant’s defense or are intended for use by the government as  
11 evidence-in-chief at trial or were obtained from or belong to Defendant.

12           Reasonable efforts will be made to preserve relevant physical evidence which is in the  
13 custody and control of the investigating agency and the prosecution, with the following exceptions:  
14 drug evidence, with the exception of a representative sample, is routinely destroyed after 60 days,  
15 and vehicles are routinely and periodically sold at auction. Records of radio transmissions, if they  
16 existed, are frequently kept for only a short period of time and may no longer be available.  
17 Counsel should contact the Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the case two weeks before  
18 the scheduled trial date and the Assistant will make arrangements with the case agent for counsel  
19 to view all evidence within the government’s possession.

20                   c.       The Government Will Comply With Rule 16(a)(1)(F)

21           The government will permit Defendant to inspect and copy or photograph any results or  
22 reports of physical or mental examinations, and of scientific tests or experiments, or copies thereof,  
23 that are within the possession of the government, and by the exercise of due diligence may become  
24 known to the attorney for the government and are material to the preparation of the defense or are  
25 intended for use by the government as evidence-in-chief at the trial. Counsel for Defendant should  
26 contact the Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the case and the Assistant will make  
27

arrangements with the case agent for counsel to view all evidence within the government's possession.

d. The Government Will Comply With Its Obligations Under *Brady v. Maryland*

The government is well aware of and will fully perform its duty under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and *United States v. Agurs*, 427 U.S. 97 (1976), to disclose exculpatory evidence within its possession that is material to the issue of guilt or punishment. Defendant, however, is not entitled to all evidence known or believed to exist that is, or may be, favorable to the accused, or that pertains to the credibility of the government's case. As stated in *United States v. Gardner*, 611 F.2d 770 (9th Cir. 1980), it must be noted that:

[T]he prosecution does not have a constitutional duty to disclose every bit of information that might affect the jury's decision; it need only disclose information favorable to the defense that meets the appropriate standard of materiality.

611 F.2d at 774-775 (citations omitted). See also *United States v. Sukumolachan*, 610 F.2d 685, 687 (9th Cir. 1980) (the government is not required to create exculpatory material that does not exist); *United States v. Flores*, 540 F.2d 432, 438 (9th Cir. 1976) (*Brady* does not create any pretrial privileges not contained in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure).

e. Discovery Regarding Government Witnesses

(1) Agreements. The government has disclosed or will disclose the terms of any agreements by Government agents, employees, or attorneys with witnesses that testify at trial. Such information will be provided at or before the time of the filing of the Government's trial memorandum.<sup>17</sup> The government will comply with its obligations to disclose impeachment evidence under *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972).

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<sup>17</sup> As with all other offers by the government to produce discovery earlier than it is required to do, the offer is made without prejudice. If, as trial approaches, the government is not prepared to make early discovery production, or if there is a strategic reason not to do so as to certain discovery, the government reserves the right to withhold the requested material until the time it is required to be produced pursuant to discovery laws and rules.

1 (2) Bias or Prejudice. The government has provided or will provide  
2 information related to the bias, prejudice or other motivation to lie of government trial witnesses  
3 as required in Napue v. Illinois, 360 U.S. 264 (1959).

4 (3) Criminal Convictions. The government has produced or will  
5 produce any criminal convictions of government witnesses plus any *material* criminal acts which  
6 did not result in conviction. The government is not aware that any prospective witness is under  
7 criminal investigation.

8 (4) Ability to Perceive. The government has produced or will produce  
9 any evidence that the ability of a government trial witness to perceive, communicate or tell the  
10 truth is impaired or that such witnesses have ever used narcotics or other controlled substances,  
11 or are alcoholics.

12 (5) Witness List. The government will endeavor to provide Defendant  
13 with a list of all witnesses which it intends to call in its case-in-chief at the time the government's  
14 trial memorandum is filed, although delivery of such a list is not required. See United States v.  
15 Dischner, 960 F.2d 870 (9th Cir. 1992); United States v. Culter, 806 F.2d 933, 936 (9th Cir. 1986);  
16 United States v. Mills, 810 F.2d 907, 910 (9th Cir. 1987). Defendant, however, is not entitled to  
17 the production of addresses or phone numbers of possible government witnesses. See United  
18 States v. Thompson, 493 F.2d 305, 309 (9th Cir. 1977), cert. denied, 419 U.S. 834 (1974).  
19 Defendant has already received access to the names of potential witnesses in this case in the  
20 investigative reports previously provided to him or her.

21 (6) Witnesses Not to Be Called. The government is not required to  
22 disclose all evidence it has or to make an accounting to Defendant of the investigative work it has  
23 performed. Moore v. Illinois, 408 U.S. 786, 795 (1972); see United States v. Gardner, 611 F.2d  
24 770, 774-775 (9th Cir. 1980). Accordingly, the government objects to any request by Defendant  
25 for discovery concerning any individuals whom the government does not intend to call as  
26 witnesses.

1 (7) Favorable Statements. The government has disclosed or will  
2 disclose the names of witnesses, if any, who have made favorable statements concerning Defendant  
3 which meet the requirements of Brady.

4 (8) Review of Personnel Files. The government has requested or will  
5 request a review of the personnel files of all federal law enforcement individuals who will be called  
6 as witnesses in this case for Brady material. The government will request that counsel for the  
7 appropriate federal law enforcement agency conduct such review. United States v. Herring, 83  
8 F.3d 1120 (9th Cir. 1996); see, also, United States v. Jennings, 960 F.2d 1488, 1492 (9th Cir.  
9 1992); United States v. Dominguez-Villa, 954 F.2d 562 (9th Cir. 1992).

10 Pursuant to United States v. Henthorn, 931 F.2d 29 (9th Cir. 1991) and United States v.  
11 Cadet, 727 F.2d 1452 (9th Cir. 1984), the United States agrees to “disclose information favorable  
12 to the defense that meets the appropriate standard of materiality . . .” United States v. Cadet, 727  
13 F.2d at 1467, 1468. Further, if counsel for the United States is uncertain about the materiality of  
14 the information within its possession in such personnel files, the information will be submitted to  
15 the Court for in camera inspection and review.

16 (9) Government Witness Statements. Production of witness statements  
17 is governed by the Jencks Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3500, and need occur only after the witness testifies  
18 on direct examination. United States v. Taylor, 802 F.2d 1108, 1118 (9th Cir. 1986); United States  
19 v. Mills, 641 F.2d 785, 790 (9th Cir. 1981)). Indeed, even material believed to be exculpatory and  
20 therefore subject to disclosure under the Brady doctrine, if contained in a witness statement subject  
21 to the Jencks Act, need not be revealed until such time as the witness statement is disclosed under  
22 the Act. See United States v. Bernard, 623 F.2d 551, 556-57 (9th Cir. 1979).

23 The government reserves the right to withhold the statements of any particular witnesses  
24 it deems necessary until after the witness testifies. Otherwise, the government will disclose the  
25 statements of witnesses at the time of the filing of the government’s trial memorandum, provided  
26 that defense counsel has complied with Defendant’s obligations under Federal Rules of Criminal  
27

1 Procedure 12.1, 12.2, and 16 and 26.2 and provided that defense counsel turn over all “reverse  
2 Jencks” statements at that time.

3 f. The Government Objects To The Full Production Of Agents’ Handwritten  
4 Notes At This Time

5 Although the government has no objection to the preservation of agents’ handwritten notes,  
6 it objects to requests for full production for immediate examination and inspection. If certain  
7 rough notes become relevant during any evidentiary proceeding, those notes will be made  
8 available.

9 Prior production of these notes is not necessary because they are not “statements” within  
10 the meaning of the Jencks Act unless they comprise both a substantially verbatim narrative of a  
11 witness’ assertions *and* they have been approved or adopted by the witness. United States v.  
12 Spencer, 618 F.2d 605, 606-607 (9th Cir. 1980); see also United States v. Griffin, 659 F.2d 932,  
13 936-938 (9th Cir. 1981).

14 g. All Investigatory Notes and Arrest Reports

15 The government objects to any request for production of all arrest reports, investigator’s  
16 notes, memos from arresting officers, and prosecution reports pertaining to Defendant. Such  
17 reports, except to the extent that they include Brady material or the statements of Defendant, are  
18 protected from discovery by Rule 16(a)(2) as “reports . . . made by . . . Government agents in  
19 connection with the investigation or prosecution of the case.”

20 Although agents’ reports may have already been produced to the defense, the government  
21 is not required to produce such reports, except to the extent they contain Brady or other such  
22 material. Furthermore, the government is not required to disclose all evidence it has or to render  
23 an accounting to Defendant of the investigative work it has performed. Moore v. Illinois, 408 U.S.  
24 786, 795 (1972); see United States v. Gardner, 611 F.2d 770, 774-775 (9th Cir. 1980). If the  
25 United States intends to introduce TECS information at trial, discovery of the relevant TECS  
26 reports will be made at least by the time of the filing of its trial memorandum.

h. Expert Witnesses.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(G), at or about the time of filing its trial memorandum, the government will provide the defense with notice of any expert witnesses the testimony of whom the government intends to use under Rules 702, 703, or 705 of the Fed. R. of Evidence in its case-in-chief. Such notice will describe the witnesses' opinions, the bases and the reasons therefor, and the witnesses' qualifications. Reciprocally, the government requests that the defense provide notice of its expert witnesses pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(b)(1)(C).

i. Information Which May Result in Lower Sentence.

Defendant has claimed or may claim that the government must disclose information about any cooperation or any attempted cooperation with the government as well as any other information affecting Defendant's sentencing guidelines because such information is discoverable under Brady v. Maryland. The government respectfully contends that it has no such disclosure obligations under Brady.

The government is not obliged under Brady to furnish a defendant with information which he or she already knows. United States v. Taylor, 802 F.2d 1108, 1118 n.5 (9th Cir. 1986), cert. denied, 479 U.S. 1094 (1987); United States v. Prior, 546 F.2d 1254, 1259 (5th Cir. 1977). Brady is a rule of disclosure. There can be no violation of Brady if the evidence is already known to Defendant. Assuming that Defendant did not already possess the information about factors which might affect their respective guideline range, the government would not be required to provide information bearing on Defendant's mitigation of punishment until after Defendant's conviction or plea of guilty and prior to his sentencing date. "No [Brady] violation occurs if the evidence is disclosed to the defendant at a time when the disclosure remains of value." United States v. Juvenile Male, 864 F.2d 641 (9th Cir. 1988).

**B. NO OPPOSITION TO LEAVE TO FILE FURTHER MOTIONS**

The United States does not object to the granting of leave to allow Defendant to file further motions, as long as the order applies equally to both parties and additional motions are based on



1 newly discovered evidence or discovery provided by the United States subsequent to the instant  
2 motion at issue.

3 **IV**

4 **CONCLUSION**

5 For the foregoing reasons, the government respectfully requests that Defendant's motions,  
6 except where not opposed, be denied.

7  
8 DATED: June 13, 2008.

9 Respectfully submitted,

10 KAREN P. HEWITT  
11 United States Attorney

12 s/ William A. Hall, Jr.  
13 WILLIAM A. HALL, JR.  
14 Assistant United States Attorney  
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